

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 04323

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS : PINT, SHUM, TW  
SUBJECT : OPPOSITIONIST LEADER'S VIEW OF CH'EN CHU  
- CASE

1. OPPOSITIONIST LEGISLATOR K'ANG NING-HSIANG TOLD US HE THOUGHT THAT WISER COUNCILS HAD PREVAILED WITHIN THE GROC SO THAT THE CH'EN CHU CASE HAD IN THE END BEEN HANDLED RELATIVELY INTELLIGENTLY. HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE CASE HAD GONE TO PRESIDENT CHIANG CHING-KUO FOR DECISION AND THAT SOME OF THE SECURITY OFFICIALS HAD PRESSED FOR A HARDER LINE CONCERNING CH'EN CHU AND DISSENTERS IN GENERAL. HE THOUGHT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY THE IMPACT ON OPINION IN THE U.S. HAD BEEN IMPORTANT FACTORS IN STRENGTHENING THE CASE FOR RELEASE. IN PARTICULAR THE USG INTERVENTION ON JUNE 26 HAD CLEARLY CAUSED THE GROC TO REFLECT ON THE UNFAVORABLE IMPACT ON OPINION IN THE U.S. DURING THE PERIOD OF DISCUSSION OF NORMALIZATION. ALTHOUGH THE OLDER, MORE SEASONED NON-PARTY POLITICIANS HAD NOT KNOWN CH'EN CHU PERSONALLY AND DID NOT SHARE MANY OF HER POLITICAL IDEAS, THEY WERE NONETHELESS GRATEFUL FOR THE U.S. INTERVENTION SINCE IT WAS HELPFUL IN SENSITIZING THE GROC TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF MISTREATMENT OF ANY DISSENTER.

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2. OPPOSITIONIST INTERVENTION: K'ANG SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE OPPOSITIONISTS ALSO HELPED IN OBTAINING CH'EN CHU'S RELEASE. SEVERAL OF THE NON-PARTY POLITICIANS HAD TALKED WITH THE PRESS FOLLOWING HER ARREST, AND THEN HE HAD SEEN LT. GENERAL WANG YUNG-SHU ALONE. K'ANG HAD ARGUED THAT UNLESS ONE COULD REALLY PROVE THAT SHE WAS

A COMMUNIST, EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE KMT, WOULD SUFFER IF SHE WERE TREATED HARSHLY. K'ANG THOUGHT SUCH REASONING WAS ACCEPTED BY MANY IN THE KMT WHO SAW THAT THEY WOULD IMPROVE THEIR IMAGE WITH THE POPULATION IF THEY HANDLED HER LENIENTLY, AND BRINGING HER TO TRIAL WOULD, ON THE CONTRARY, HURT THEM. THE KMT IN THIS CASE INTELLIGENTLY PURSUED THEIR OWN BEST INTEREST, INTERNALLY AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY.

3. "EVIDENCE" AGAINST CH'EN CHU: K'ANG SAID THAT PERHAPS THE MOST DAMAGING DOCUMENT THE POLICE FOUND AT CH'EN'S RESIDENCE WAS A WORK OF LEI CHEN'S WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPRESSED. THERE WAS ALSO A LETTER WHICH LEI CHEN HAD WRITTEN AFTERWARDS SHARPLY ATTACKING CHIANG CHING-KUO AND ASKING RHETORICALLY IF CCK COULD PUBLISH A BOOK ENTITLED "MY FATHER," WHY LEI CHEN COULD NOT PUBLISH A BOOK ENTITLED "MY MOTHER."

4. CH'EN CHU'S FUTURE: K'ANG THOUGHT THAT CH'EN CHU WOULD PROBABLY REFRAIN FROM POLITICS FOR A TIME. THE MONETARY BOND WOULD, HE THOUGHT, BE LESS A FACTOR THAN HER OWN WORD THAT SHE WOULD BE A GOOD GIRL, AND THE DANGER OF FUTURE POLICE ACTION. K'ANG THOUGHT THAT CH'EN WOULD PROBABLY BEHAVE MORE CIRCUMSPECTLY WHEN SHE RETURNED TO POLITICS IN THE FUTURE.

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5. THE NEXT TARGETS: K'ANG SAID THAT HIS GROUP WAS NOT WORRIED BY THE STATEMENT BY THE TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND SPOKESMAN THAT "THE AUTHORITIES WILL FURTHER INVESTIGATE OTHER CONSPIRACIES BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CH'EN CHU." HE THOUGHT THAT THE SENIOR OPPOSITIONIST POLITICIANS WERE NOT THE ONES THE GROC WOULD BE AFTER FOLLOWING THIS CASE. HE THOUGHT THAT THE OLDER INTELLECTUALS WITH MORE EXTREMIST AND LEFTIST VIEWS, WITH WHOM CH'EN CHU HAD BEEN CLOSELY CONNECTED, WERE THE ONES TARGETTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. THIS DID NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GROUP DID NOT CONSIDER THE INCIDENT A SERIOUS ONE.

6. COMMENT: K'ANG CLEARLY CONSIDERED CH'EN CHU'S RELEASE AS A MORAL VICTORY AND ONE WHICH JUSTIFIED HIS POLICY OF AVOIDING CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN THE KMT AND THE OPPOSITIONISTS. WHILE IT SEEMS THAT THE OPPOSITIONIST POLITICIANS DO NOT FEEL THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE IS DESIGNED TO THREATEN THEM, THEY BELIEVE THEY MUST CONTINUE TO ACT WITH CIRCUMSPECTION. K'ANG'S OPTIMISM ABOUT THE "LIBERAL" TENDENCY OF THE KMT IS PROBABLY NOT FULLY

SHARED BY ALL HIS COLLEAGUES. UNGER

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